



# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

8024 TOMMY DRIVE • SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92119

(714) 463-0738

VOLUME VII No. 5-6

May-June 1974

Dear AAZK Members,

This is the second copy of the modified format for our national publication. Because of our difficulty keeping ahead of printing costs with our more expensive editions with the hard cover, we feel it is much better to revert to this less expensive form and see that you receive it on time and on a regular basis. We were trying to bring you a first class journal, but we were not financially fitted for this means. We will give you plenty of news, excellent keeper articles, and more importantly, we will give you the service you deserve.

We take this opportunity to extend our sincere thanks to Mr. Dewey Garvey, Editor, and his most able staff for bringing us a quality job throughout 1973 and the first 1974 issue. AAZK can be proud of the fine quality work Dewey and his staff has done for the Association.

All future editions of The Keeper will be compiled, printed and distributed at San Diego, California. The new editor for our publication will be Mr. Brian Joseph. Brian is a student at San Diego State majoring in Zoology and is a full-time keeper in the mammal department at the San Diego Zoo. Brian already assures us that his wife Sharon will be assisting him in giving us an excellent publication.

Each edition will be limited to five sheets of paper (including cover sheet) and will be published bi-monthly. In addition to The Keeper, a special communique will be sent to all members to keep you informed of current AAZK business and happenings.

In order to produce a worthy and informative publication, we need input from our members. We especially want to receive keeper-written articles that will help us in our effort to exchange practical knowledge encountered in the daily care of our animals. PLEASE SEND YOUR ARTICLES TO THE EDITORIAL OFFICE LISTED BELOW:

The Keeper

Brian Joseph, Editor  
685 Brightwood Avenue  
Chula Vista, California 92010

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All AAZK MEMBERSHIPS include a subscription to The Keeper. Single copies \$1.00. Opinions expressed by individual authors are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policy of the American Association of Zoo Keepers.

The Keeper, the official national publication of the American Association of Zoo Keepers, is published six times annually and distributed throughout the United States, Canada, and several foreign countries.



## Report of the 1974 National AAZK Conference

Chicago April 22-25

Registered delegates 107

Representing 30 zoos, 1 Primate Research Center, 2 aquariums

The AAZK meetings in Chicago proved to be the most successful in the history of the organization. Much business was accomplished and all conference expenses were paid in full. In addition to the registration fees of the attending delegates, AAZK received the full support of the host zoos, each of which provided a luncheon at either zoo or society expense. We also had the support of three commercial exhibitors (Allied Mills, Conference Book Co., and West Chemical Products). The profit realized from the meeting, over and above all conference costs was applied to our printing bill at Litho Copy Service in Chicago. The total bill was paid in full.

Many items on the agenda for the Board of Directors were accepted without difficulty.

Following are some of the decisions, resolutions and proposals acted on and accepted by the delegation:

It was decided that all national AAZK conferences would be scheduled during the spring and summer months, but definite dates would depend on other zoo organizational meetings to avoid conflict with these or host zoo activities.

A resolution was presented indicating AAZK support of inter-zoo scientific studies now becoming commonplace in many zoos through University affiliations. It was noted that many keeper objections arise from the fact that they are not told enough about the specific projects carried out by many researchers, and some voiced annoyance about an intrusion of authority by some student researchers. Most keepers feel the researcher is a zoo guest and should adhere to the zoo rules first and should not try to interfere with the duties of the keeper or assume they know more than the keeper does about the specific animals in question.

A major topic throughout the conference was the discussion of AAZK incomes. It was decided to revert to a modified edition of our national publication, cutting the cost of printing almost in half. It was also decided that the publication would be printed and distributed in San Diego again. Mr. Brian Joseph, of the San Diego Chapter of AAZK, will serve as the Editor of The Keeper for the remainder of 1974. The publication will revert to off-set printing on white 8½ x 11 bond, one corner stapled and half-fold for mailing. The bi-monthly paper will be mailed first class postage. This will avoid the lengthy delays of bulk mailing and will also avoid lost copies. The total cost of printing and mailing will be limited to approximately \$130.00 per issue.

Advertising in our publication will be solicited also. Rates are obtainable from AAZK Headquarters.

It was decided to solicit associate members through newspaper advertising, but this will not be initiated until the new modified form of The Keeper is available.



## AAZK Conference Report (continued)

AAZK election of three Board of Director members was postponed until 1976. It was decided to retain the present Board Members until the San Diego Conference.

Mr. Richard G. Sweeney was again appointed as Executive Director and will maintain the AAZK office at 8024 Tommy Drive, San Diego, California, 92119. Mr. Sweeney was also asked to start procedures necessary to filing for incorporation. It is hoped this will stimulate some additional financial support and also make it easier to apply for educational grants for some of the proposed AAZK projects. Application for grant assistance will be initiated as soon as our incorporation is completed. AAZK will be incorporated in the State of California.

Limited expenditures for office equipment were approved and will be effected as funds become available.

Foreign membership fees were increased to \$15.00 annually to allow for air mail service to these members. The delays in surface mailing prompted this change. Two new AAZK membership categories were added. One is Benefactor at \$250.00 and Patron at \$500.00. Special membership cards will be made available for these two new categories.

The geographical boundries of AAZK were changed to include four specific areas. Each area will be represented by a Regional Assistant who will assist in the planning of regional and national conferences within their area. Mr. Mickey Barrett, Honolulu Zoo, will serve the Western region; Mr. Chris LaRue, Topeka Zoo, will serve the Central area; Mr. Bela Demeter will serve the Eastern Area. A regional assistant will be appointed for the Southern area. A special assistant will serve as our Canadian representative.

Mr. Ed Roberts, President of the AAZK Board, is still negotiating through Mr. Warren Iliff, Washington, D.C. and the University of California, in regards to our proposed correspondence curriculum for zoo keeping. Further information will be announced in the near future.

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AAZK is now investigating the procedures necessary to initiate an accreditation program that will afford keeper members recognized professional registration within the organization. Zoo keepers who are members of the AAZK and who meet the requisites established for this accreditation would be presented a certificate of accreditation prescribed by AAZK and the proper government agency. Plans for this program are still in the formative stages and progress reports will be published in subsequent editions of The Keeper. WATCH THE KEEPER FOR FURTHER DETAILS!!!!

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1974 awards were presented as follows:

AAZK R. Marlin Perkins Certificate of Excellence---to Mr. Roger Henneous, Portland Zoo.

Edmund Thomas Memorial Award (for contribution to Keeper education)-to Dr. Raymond Giron, Florida.



## AAZK Conference Report (Continued)

Robert Crawford Memorial Award (best article in AAZK publication)--to Miss Gay Kuester and Mr. Pat Stout, Brookfield Zoo.

A special resolution was passed honoring Mr. Frank Meakins, former Head Keeper at the Whipsnade Zoo in England. He was also presented with a photo of Cheetahs as a token of appreciation for his 40 years service to the wildlife in his charge.

A national AAZK speakers bureau was established and all AAZK Board Members will serve as spokesmen for AAZK at various functions throughout the country. Each Board Member will speak at functions within his area. Any monies realized from these appearances will be directed to AAZK.

Installation of officers took place at the Conference Banquet:

Mr. Edward A. Roberts, Stone Memorial Zoo, Stoneham, Massachusetts, will serve a two year term as President of the Board.

Mr. Sam J. LaMalfa, Milwaukee County Zoo, Wisconsin, will be first Vice-President and Miss Pat Sass, Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, will be the second Vice-President.

Other Board Members are: Mr. Gerald Thomas, San Diego Wild Animal Park, California.

Mr. Rick Steenberg, Como Zoo, St. Paul, Minn.

Mr. Dewey Garvey, Brookfield Zoo, Illinois.

Mr. Richard G. Sweeney (Executive Secretary/  
Treasurer appointed), San Diego Zoo, Calif.

Future election ballots will be incorporated into our national publication.

A booklet containing many of the talks presented at the Chicago meeting will be available to all interested parties in the near future. Mr. Mike Dee, President of the Los Angeles Chapter of AAZK, is compiling this booklet. A minimum charge will be made to cover the cost of printing. Notice of price will appear in our Keeper.

A bid was accepted to hold the 1976 National AAZK Conference in San Diego, California, in August of 1976. Tentative dates are August 20-24.

We were pleased to see so many keepers at Chicago who had been afforded partial or full expenses from their zoos. Two delegates from the small zoo at Abilene, Texas were afforded full expenses. A delegation of four was sent at full expenses by the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. and several others were allowed time off with pay or partial allowances such as registration fees, etc. Our hats are off to the managements of these zoos. This show of concern is the kind of professional stimulus needed.

The next AAZK regional meeting is tentatively planned for Wichita, Kansas, in the spring of 1976.

Mr. Gerald Durrell was elected to Honorary AAZK membership. Mr. Durrell is Director of Jersey Zoological Park, Les Augres Manor, Jersey, Channel Islands.

Richard G. Sweeney  
Executive Secretary



ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

The editorial below was published in the February 7, 1974 issue of the Washington Post. This followed Mr. Fensterwald's testimony not in support of S. 2774--The National Zoo and Aquarium Board Bill--at the hearing in Washington on January 23rd. We are reprinting the editorial here for your information. If you wish to send your personal comments to Mr. Fensterwald, his address is: Mr. Bernard Fensterwald, Committee for Humane Legislation, 910 16th Street, N.W., Suite 600, Washington, D.C., 20006. Mr. Fensterwald is counsel to the Committee for Humane Legislation.

"Time to Phase Out Zoos," by Bernard Fensterwald

As many people who have gone to a zoo recently know, zoos are in trouble. Many of them are antiquated, over-crowded and generally depressing places. Most of them have too many species, crammed into too little space and behind too many iron bars.

As with most faltering institutions, zoos, despite their traditional civic and local flavor, are now turning to Uncle Sam for a bail-out program.

Proponents of such a federal bail-out program recently descended on a Senate subcommittee holding hearings on such a proposal. They didn't deny the deep trouble in which zoos find themselves, but they were quite optimistic about the future of zoos if only the federal taxpayers would foot the bill.

As a glowing example of what splendid places zoos might become, a zoologist from Portland, Ore., described the wonders of a new approach to zoos which can most aptly be described at Animal Pinball:

In the wild, gibbons live in tree tops, seldom descending to the ground. They are constantly on the move, constantly active and constantly feeding on very small amounts of food collected from the tips of branches. Even when the animals find a tree loaded with suitable food, their tendency is to move on. The typical pattern in captivity is for a keeper to present a large quantity of food once a day to these animals on the floor of their cage. The animals descend, gorge themselves and remain relatively inactive. At Portland, we have taken a traditional cage approximately 30 feet long, equipped it with lights and levers at each of the upper rear corners. When the first light comes on, the gibbons go to that light and pull a lever which activates the second light across the cage. They move to that light, pull a second lever and are rewarded with a small amount of food. This project has given the animals control over one small aspect of their environment.

When the exhibit was first installed, the first light came on automatically every two minutes and there were graphics to explain to the viewer what was happening. The exhibit elicited only minimal public interest. By placing the first light under the control of a coin box in the public area, we provided the added benefit of an opportunity for public interaction with these animals.

Isn't it marvelous what man's ingenuity can produce--for 10 cents a child can be a combination of Pavlov and Orwell!

There is a growing popular feeling that it is time to phase out zoos, by phase-out, we mean that as animal populations in existing zoos die off, they should not be replaced. The whole concept of the zoo is based upon



## Editorial (continued)

ecological disruption in the countries from which the animals are obtained and is marked by enormous suffering and waste of life in transport. And once in the zoo, there is constant suffering through lack of freedom. Man can no longer treat his fellow creatures in such a callous fashion.

It has been declared that "zoos have a high and increasing educational value," and that we are in danger of losing "an irreplaceable learning experience." But, in fact, just how much educational value has a caged animal?

With the advent of movies and TV, zoos have become of minimal value as an educational tool; primal amusement, yes; education, barely. There is a general feeling that as people compare the animals in zoos with the life of the species in the wild as shown in a documentary film, their general reaction is to recognize the imprisoned creatures as unhappy psychotic examples of their species. And, as we noted, it is far more educational to show the public documentary films on the life of animals in their native wild.

One subject which remains little discussed is the question of money. Large sums of money are contemplated in the "Zoo Bill." At the same time, many urgent projects involving our human citizens either go unfunded or have their funds impounded by the White House. How can we seriously propose to spend millions of dollars on "bigger and better" zoos when so many of our human institutions remain substandard?

One version of the "Zoo Bill" provides for grants "to any nonprofit agency for the purpose of enabling such zoo, aquarium, or agency to establish 'survival centers' for the breeding, care and perpetuation of endangered species." Not only does this concept appear to ignore the existence of the new federal Endangered Species Act and United Nations Endangered Species Treaty, it also deeply offends the sense of human dignity. Has man become so avaricious that he cannot spare endangered species more than a few square feet of concrete and steel in which to "survive?" If that's the very best we humans can do, maybe we had best stuff a pair of each wildlife species and put them in a museum. That way, at least, there would be an end to the suffering.

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NOTE OF SPECIAL INTEREST: Several keepers from the San Diego Zoo have formed an AAZK speakers bureau and will present animal care talks to various youth organizations in and around the San Diego area. The speakers bureau is a public service of AAZK in conjunction with the public relations department of the San Diego Zoo.

AAZK IS VERY PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE the appointment of Mr. Ben Blackson, D.Em. as Advisor to the AAZK Board of Directors. Presently Mr. Blackson, who is Zoo Marketing Director for Allied Mills, Inc., will be assisting in the establishment of the AAZK accreditation program. Mr. Blackson is former Director of the Utica Zoo in New York.

INFORMATION PLEASE!! If any of our readers has any information at all about the hand-raising of the woolly monkey (Genus *Lagothrix*), please send to Mr. Dennis Levy, 16 Harting Road, Boscombe East, Bournemouth, England, BH6 5QJ.





## Giant Pandas in France

by Mr. Dennis Levy, Bournemouth, England

On the occasion of Monsieur Pompidou's visit to China of November, 1973, France was presented with a pair of giant pandas. They were flown to Paris shortly afterwards, and are on show at the Vincennes Zoo. The female is named "Yen-Yen," which is said to mean "Peking." The male is believed to be about a month younger, and is named "Li-Li," which is said to mean "Paris," though this sounds surprising since the name "Li-Li" has previously been used for a breeding female at Peking Zoo. Both Paris animals are young, and are reported to have been wild-caught in early 1973, when they were only a very few months old. Monsieur Raymond Dupuis is the head keeper in charge of them.

It is rumoured that Paris showed live giant pandas in the last century, but unmistakeable documentation seems difficult to obtain. The only live giant panda shown for sure in France previously was at Vincennes for a few days in 1939. This same animal, the male "Happy," had previously been in London and several German zoos and, after Paris, lived from 1939 to 1946 in the St. Louis Zoo. In fact, several of the 20 giant pandas which have definitely been exhibited outside of Asia (the first was Brookfield's Su-Lin, who arrived in the U.S.A. in 1936 and at Brookfield in 1937) have been exhibited in more than one place, but their eventual homes were as follows: 3 at Brookfield, 2 at St. Louis, 4 at Bronx, 5 at London, 2 at Moscow, 2 at Washington, and now 2 at Vincennes. One or two additional specimens arrived alive but in moribund condition.

Of these 20 specimens, only 4 are alive now: the pair in Washington, and the pair at Vincennes. Of the 16 of them which have died, only London's "Chi-Chi" and Moscow's "An-An"--both long-lived specimens--have been alive after 1961. The other 3 of the top 5 longevities recorded outside of Asia all belong to the U.S., with top place held by Brookfield's male "Mei-Lan," who lived there from November 1939 to September 1953, and was in fact the last specimen seen alive in America until Washington received its pair. In Asia there is an unknown number but probably about 12 in captivity in China (where they have bred more than once, and successfully, but apparently nowhere else), an unknown number but probably 2 in North Korea, and 2 very fine specimens in Tokyo.

The giant panda was discovered in China in 1869 by Abbe David (the same Frenchman after whom Pere David's deer is named), but both he and the Paris scientists involved seem to have thought it was a new species of bear. Since then it has more usually been classified nearer the raccoons, but the controversy continues, and the truth seems to be that it is somewhere in between. Its only near relative is the more familiar lesser or red panda, but even that doesn't seem to be very closely related. "Chi-Chi" is now in London's main natural history museum, as part of an exhibit illustrating various facets of these classification problems.

It was long thought that wild giant pandas are restricted to a small area of high bamboo woodland in Szechwan province in the interior of China, but it now seems that they are found in mixed fir and broad-leaved forests of small parts of two adjacent provinces as well, usually between 10,000 and 14,500 feet above sea level. Their main food does seem to be bamboo but they are now known to be far more omnivorous than was previously thought.

It is believed that specimens live a solitary existence except for about three weeks each year (and except, of course, for the strong mother/young relationship), and so the Paris animals are currently being kept apart. The mainland Chinese are well aware now of this treasure they possess, and it may not be too much to hope that the giant panda, symbol of the World Wildlife Fund, is not by any means the most endangered mammal in the world today.



## Giant Pandas (continued)

Editor's note: Subsequent to the receipt of Mr. Levy's article, Mr. Levy informed us of the death of "Li-Li" on April 20th of this year, cause unknown.

### Baboon Behavior at the San Diego Zoo

by Teri M. Steck--Mammal Keeper

Studies of baboons are important because they are of monkeys that have forsaken a life in the trees, and so may give us clues about how our ancestors made a similar move.

The San Diego Zoo has four representatives of the baboons. There is the Chacma, which lives in Eastern and Southern Africa and is grey-black with a black face, lacking a mantle. The Hamadryas or Sacred baboon is one of the best known, and is found in Somaliland and both sides of the Red Sea. Males are pale silver with a flowing mantle-like mane, the females being smaller and more brown. The Mandrill has been described as the most brutal and ugliest of the monkeys. The muzzle is purple with pale blue swellings. Coloration, particularly of the genital region and buttock area must be regarded as a secondary sex characteristic, apparently attractive to the less colorful females. The Gelada baboon is related to the baboons, but has nostrils on the side of the snout instead of at the end. It lives in the mountains of northern Ethiopia.

Baboons eat a wide variety of foods, both plant and animal, depending on the season, local availability and the age of the baboon. Seeds, shoots, tubers, nuts, fruit, leaves, bark, insects, and lizards make up the basic diet of a wild baboon. Occasionally small monkeys, eggs, and birds have been recorded as prey.

The first occasion for me to notice the diet of a baboon in captivity was when they were included within my duties as a keeper. The original diet consisted basically of monkey chow (a biscuit containing essential nutrients and manufactured by Purina). As I became more aware of the basic needs of baboons, I thought the addition of fruits and vegetables could possibly alter the behavior of these animals in such a way as to increase activity and possibly stimulate reproduction.

Approximately two months ago, I began to add various fruits (oranges, apples and bananas) to their diet. The baboons devoured the fruit and monkey chow each day and as time progressed an increased capacity to consume food was exhibited. The resulting change in Gelada behavior was the first to appear. After the addition of fruit, their outward appearance has improved, the coat being more lustrous. Grooming time has increased along with the number and duration of activity periods, and the customary bored look has been eliminated. The Geladas, when fed primarily on a biscuit diet, never completed a meal. The left over amount of food usually equalled what had been put out the previous day. Now, not just the fruit is gone, but so is the monkey chow!

Acceptance from the Mandrills was the greatest. The dominant male, Dennis, and I have developed a one-to-one relationship, which has progressed to the point of jealousy when I approach with another keeper. The relationship was instigated when I began to bring Dennis a banana each morning. He gradually grew to expect his banana each day and would meet me at the entrance to his enclosure. When there was no banana, quite a temper was displayed. The display of jealousy was the most amazing thing to me. Being new to the keeper profession, I was astonished when Dennis actually could recognize me from other keepers. Since I am a female, and the other keepers are all males, discrimination between us is remarkable since we all wear the same khaki un-



## Baboon Behavior (continued)

iforms. When I would approach alone, Dennis remained calm and only soft grunts were displayed. If I approached with a male keeper, Dennis issued a complete series of threats. The show of teeth, yawn threats and raising of eyelids were not directed towards me, but directly at the accompanying male keeper. It was not clear what prompted Dennis to discriminate between us, and if he actually did, whether he used his sense of sight or smell. The possibility of me being the first woman to actually care for the Mandrills could have excited his curiosity, just the fact that there was something different could have evoked the observed responses. Female Mandrills showed no acceptance of me as an individual.

Now that all baboons are receiving fruits and, as of late, vegetables (carrots, lettuce, yams and onions), the over-all behavior has become much more pronounced. Their activity periods are longer and more intense. The Geladas hopefully may reproduce, which has not occurred for quite some time; their current interest in each other is more exaggerated than ever before.

With the addition of fruits and vegetables, the boredom ratio has been reduced for these highly intelligent primates. The capacity is there to alter the other aspects contributing to his boredom; a natural enclosure, possibly with no wire fencing, and vegetation could be provided. The personal relationships between baboons must also be considered; the torment that one species goes through because his rival is two feet away is not conducive to a tranquil environment. There is much to be done for baboons as well as other wildlife in our zoos.

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OUR SPECIAL THANKS--to Mrs. Griff Ewer for her excellent speech at the Chicago conference banquet. Mrs. Ewer is a well known author and has written two books entitled Ethology of Mammals and Carnivores. In addition to this, she has written articles about various animals including the tasmanian devil, Australian fat-tailed mouse and small tropical cats.

NEW KEEPER ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED IN ENGLAND--Word has been received at National Headquarters that the European counterpart of AAZK, the Association of British Wild Animal Keepers (ABWAK) has been organized. At present, the organization has 20 keeper members and they plan to publish their own newsletter. (Mr. Jon G. Barzdo, Sussex, England). AAZK extends a hearty welcome to ABWAK and looks forward to a formal liaison with their organization. Mr. Barzdo has assured us we will receive exchanges of keeper materials with them.

ZOO REVIEW by Pat Stout	Interesting accounts by two veterinarians of their work.
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All Creatures Great and Small by James Herriot, 1972 softbound, 499 pps., \$1.75, published by Bantam Books. This heartwarming, memorable story of a Scottish veterinarian who has worked with farm and pet animals in the Yorkshire countryside since the thirties is fascinating.

First Catch Your Tiger by Oliver Graham-Jones, 1973 hardbound, 223 pps., \$7.95, published by Taplinger Publishing Co., Inc., New York, New York. The author, who became the first full-time veterinary surgeon at the London Zoo in 1951, describes many of the medical problems of a major zoo while establishing that zoo's first modern animal hospital.





# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS

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